

The Times-Dispatch.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1903.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

"We declare ourselves as favoring the principle of the selection of party candidates by primary election; believing this to be the surest method of arriving at the will of the people and maintaining Democratic institutions."

"We accordingly direct the State Central Committee to provide a primary election plan for the choice of party candidates for the United States Senate, and for all elective State offices; and for members of the House of Representatives of the United States; for members of the General Assembly, and for county and municipal offices, except where no party nominations are made and except in the case of county and municipal offices where for special reasons, the local party throughout shall deem it inexpedient. And the party plan of organization, in so far as the same may conflict with any of the above requirements, is hereby altered to that extent."

"We further favor the enactment by the General Assembly of a law legalizing the primaries to be conducted under the plan herein provided for."

The above is an extract from the Virginia Democratic platform adopted by the Convention, assembled in Norfolk, on August 15th, 1902. It is plain and specific and its meaning cannot be misunderstood. As for the primary to nominate candidates for the United States Senate for all elective State offices, for members of the General Assembly, the instruction to the State Central Committee is positive and the committee has no discretion in the matter. The Convention made the law and the law is binding. If it is to be repealed, the repeal must be by the same authority which made the law, the regularly constituted Convention of the Democratic party of Virginia.

There is a great deal of talk about altering the plan, but why should it be altered, even by a State Convention until it has been thoroughly tested? In several other States of the South this plan has been in effect for years, and it is, so far as we can ascertain, the most satisfactory plan of making nominations that has been tried. The only debatable objection which has been raised to the plan, according to our view, is the question of expense. That is a serious question, but it is a problem that can be solved by the patriotism and party affection of Democrats. It seems to us entirely reasonable to assume that at practically every election precinct in the State of Virginia, enough true and loyal Democrats can be found to conduct the election without cost to the candidates. Indeed it seems to us unreasonable to assume the contrary. He is a very poor Democrat, truly, who is not willing to give one day of his time in the course of a year or two to the work of his party, and we remark, also that in our opinion better men can be had without pay than with pay. The man who will not serve as judge of election in a party primary without pay, must have very little interest in the welfare of his party and his State.

Of course men cannot be compelled to perform this service gratuitously and it will doubtless be necessary in some cases to pay the election officers. But if the right sort of an appeal be made by the party organization and by the candidates who have confidence enough in the Democrats of Virginia to believe that in the great majority of cases, it will not be in vain.

We note also, and direct the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the Norfolk Convention put itself on record as favoring a legalized primary. We should certainly be glad to see such a bill passed, so that the proposed primary elections law may be applied in the primaries as well as in the general election. Under existing conditions our main contests are in the primaries and they should be safeguarded by all reasonable restrictions of law. What possible objection there can be to legalizing a primary, we cannot see. It was certainly the design of the framers of the Constitution that the General Assembly should enact a law to that effect. Section 36 of article II provides that "The General Assembly SHALL enact such laws as are necessary and proper for the purpose of securing the regularity and purity of general, local and PRIMARY elections, and preventing and punishing any corrupt practices in connection therewith."

POISONED WITH TOBACCO.

The practical joker is still at large. While ago we heard that he had been caught down in Texas and strung up, but not so—he is still alive and going his rounds. Last week he was in Alleghany county, Va., and was engaged in his old tricks. His victim was T. M. Eakle, the postmaster at Williamsville. Into a cup of coffee that Mr. Eakle was about to drink the P. J. put a piece of tobacco, and Mr. Eakle being thirsty took a great gulp of the coffee and then another before he detected any unusual taste. Soon he became very sick, and for a time it was feared he would die. It was believed that he had been poisoned by some deadly drug. The indignation of his family and friends—in the language of the novelist—may be "more easily imagined than described."

If in the supreme moment of their indignation and anxiety the P. J. had appeared he might have been dealt with summarily. But Mr. Eakle recovered after some hours' illness and an explanation was made to him, convincing all that there was no intention to destroy his life. No it was all meant "in fun." The practical joker supposed that his victim would detect the tobacco in his first taste of coffee and that no great harm would be done him. It did not occur to him that the taste of tobacco might be very objectionable to Mr. Eakle. Tobacco taken internally is a very powerful drug. It has been known to kill people. On the other hand, the late General Clinman, of North Carolina, esteemed it highly as a curative agent, and he lived to a great age. However, it may have been that his recommendation of it was for external application in such diseases as rheumatism, neuralgia, etc. We do not remember as to that. No doubt tobacco has its good as well as its bad points and therein it differs from the practical joker, who is wholly mischievous, often dangerous and sometimes deadly in his tricks.

PROFIT SHARING.

It appears from recent statements that the profit-sharing plan of the United States Steel Corporation has thus far been eminently successful. The stock allotted was largely over-subscribed and the statement shows that the laborers and skilled mechanics applied for four-fifths of the subscriptions. This is encouraging. The United States Steel Corporation is the largest corporation of its kind in this country, if not in the world, and when it was first organized it was looked upon as a menace. It may be, but thus far its affairs have been conducted on the most conservative basis. It has largely controlled the price of iron, but it has kept the price down, when under other circumstances the price would undoubtedly have gone sky high. It had a long struggle soon after its organization with its employees, but the difficulty was finally adjusted, and now the company seems to be on good terms with the men who work for it, and the men seem to have confidence in the company, as indicated by their large subscription to the stock which has been recently offered to them.

This profit-sharing experiment will be watched with great interest. Corporations of this character are not philanthropic organizations, but wise men know that it is to the interest of the corporations to have their workmen satisfied, and to have them interested as much as possible in the welfare of the concern. We believe that the only reason why the profit-sharing plan has not been already adopted by many corporations is because it is a most difficult problem to formulate a plan that will be entirely just to all interests and avoid vexatious complications. If the United States Steel Corporation shall succeed in working out the plan, and showing it to be practically feasible, there is little doubt that corporations generally will follow suit.

AN UPHEAVAL OF SPITE.

At a meeting the other night of Kearny Post, No. 55, G. A. R., of New York City, a resolution was adopted protesting against the erection of a statue to General Lee at Gettysburg. The resolution declares that such a statue would be a "desecration of the hallowed ground" and would be a "reward for treason." "If we raise monuments to those who have been guilty of treason," it is added, "we teach a bad lesson to posterity." In the same connection we note a letter to one of the Philadelphia papers from a Union veteran, also protesting against the statue, in which the writer refers to General Lee as a "traitor to his country and especially to the State of Pennsylvania." "It was he who raised our free State," adds the correspondent, "and it was he and his rebel hordes who destroyed both life and property in the State of Pennsylvania and upon the very spot at which it is proposed to erect this monument to honor his name and cause."

We do not propose to go into any defense of General Lee and the Confederate cause against these slanders, nor shall we even take the trouble to quote from General Lee's famous order at Gettysburg against the destruction of private property and the killing of the innocent. We reproduce these protests from the North in order to show the feeling that still exists, and particularly to show the unwillingness of any movement, especially on the part of the people of the South, to force General Lee upon the people of the North. Every such movement simply gives the ranting element at the North the opportunity to ventilate their spite and malice and to slander the man and the cause that are sacred to us. General Lee does not need to be "honored" at the North. His fame is established, his memory is sacred, and we who know him and appreciate him and love his memory can well afford to leave him alone in his glory.

THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

Vermont has abandoned prohibition, after a trial of fifty years. Last year the State Legislature enacted a local option and high license law, but under a promise of the Republican party the law was submitted to a vote of the people for rejection or ratification. The law carried by a majority of about one thousand, which, according to the New York Sun, was about the same as the majority for prohibition in 1852. In the same connection the Sun says that the Rains law in New York has given the greatest impetus to the high license movement that it has yet received, and adds:

That law having proved to be a rich revenue-producing measure, and having at the same time diminished the number of saloons, it is probable that it will remain in New York, so far as its principle is concerned, whatever may be the political changes in the State. Since its enactment the temperance agitation has ceased to exist in New York, and it had done before. The prohibition vote in the State has fallen off actually and relatively to the increase of the population, very decidedly. For example, the prohibition vote for Governor, which in 1871 had been over 30,000, out of a total of about 1,100,000, fell in 1902 to about 29,000, out of more than 1,800,000. The distraction of temperance agitation is no longer feared by the Republican party.

There is something in all this for the law-makers of Virginia to consider. The liquor question is a very live issue in politics and politicians will do well to recognize the fact. The opponents of Dr. Crum seem to be getting the crum of comfort at the present writing, and, if Tillman can be held in check, Crum will probably be defeated. It now costs \$100,000 per year to keep the White House in order, whereas it used to take only \$30,000. There are more children and rainy days about the White House now than formerly. The Senate passed the Elkins anti-trust bill without a single speech for or against. It must be a mighty poor bill that gets through that way. When Minister Bowen says no, he throws an emphasis in it that convinces British and Germans alike, that he means what he says. The ground hog doubtless got an idea last night that he had made his exit a trifle too soon. Decent politics wins a great victory. Addicks has thrown up the sponge in Delaware. It cost Sousa just \$3,000 to play before the King, but the advertisement was worth every cent of it. Reports of the death of a Sultan must now be accompanied by a corner's certificate to insure belief. There is now a price-controlling milk syndicate in New Jersey. It is properly watered, we suppose. Castro knew what he was doing when he asked Bowen to play his hand for him. Never mind about Lessler and Quigg; Dobbin has been squelched. After all, Addicks did not have a grape vine cinch. Even the Kentucky grand juries are getting tired of Goebel confessions. We will soon find out what is really Hobson's choice. With a Comment or Two. From appearances the Democratic party is drifting to where Mr. Cleveland stands but we do not take this as an indication that it is willing to accept him as its standard-bearer. Durham Herald. To sit on the fence and watch the drift will be sufficient glory for your Uncle Grover. The price of beef has been reduced 40 per cent, as a result of a fight between big packers and independent concern. It's the old story—when beef packers fall out other people get their dues.—Atlanta Journal. Wonder if we can start such a falling out between the party who see wither and a patent on the method. A new word was coined during the course of a bycatching case in Jackson, Miss., the other day. The word is "alibi," and Judge Niles explained that it meant "one who is always willing to swear to an alibi for a friend, through the aid of these party or see wither." "Alibi" is an ancient institution. The joke which legislatures are passing around this year is the taxing of bachelors. The Legislature in Indiana passed a very stale—Indianapolis Journal. It should be buried with the anti-kissing bills which started in the Virginia Legislature and was a huge joke from the start. The pneumonia bacillus has been found. Now that the men of science have got down to it, let the local politicians get on and save the rising generation.—Florida Times-Union. That microbe will not remain located. Head it off at one place and it will bob up serenely in another. We have noticed that the Administration always gets busy in the interests of clean sidewalks after the departure of the winter season has passed.—London News. That's about the way we work country roads in Virginia. Mr. Cleveland is the only man in the United States in the opinion of former Senator Lindsay, of Kentucky, who could be elected President in 1904 in opposition to the money trust. Lindsay replies his cheerful view by adding that he is a Republican. Chief Judge Geo. Savage, of the Orphan's Court of Baltimore, who on Wednesday suffered a second stroke of apoplexy, was born in Henrico county, Va., served during the Civil War in a Richmond artillery company, and for a year or two was connected with the business office of the Richmond Examiner. From here he removed to Baltimore, where he studied law. He is a very sick man now; his condition being critical, indeed. It seems now that a compromise will be reached in the matter of admitting the territories that are clamoring for statehood at the door of the Senate. The plan is to admit Arizona and New Mexico as one State under the name of Arizona, and then hit the Indian Territory on to Oklahoma, and admit them as one State under the name Oklahoma. This will put two more stars on the flag and four more Senators in the Congress. It will also leave an opening for the new State of Montague, which they are talking of carving out of Montana and North Dakota. Several days ago we mentioned that a South Dakota farmer had written to the editor of this paper to gain information concerning farming lands in Virginia, as he desired to settle here. The letter was turned over to Commissioner Kolmer, who answered it. But as several persons have written to know the address we have decided to print it. It is W. A. Johnson, Raymond, Clark county, South Dakota. In another column a Danville correspondent discusses in an interesting manner some interesting questions of suffrage involved and not involved in the new Constitution. It may be worthy of notice that none of the young men who helped Hobson submerge the Merrimack are complaining of sore eyes or resigning. Hobson can lecture. Dobbin is not a man who carries five thousand dollar bills around loose, and he

owns no submarine patterns. Hence somebody was backing him when he directed his attention to the New York Congressman, and the question is who? Echo's answer should not be considered sufficient. The opponents of Dr. Crum seem to be getting the crum of comfort at the present writing, and, if Tillman can be held in check, Crum will probably be defeated. It now costs \$100,000 per year to keep the White House in order, whereas it used to take only \$30,000. There are more children and rainy days about the White House now than formerly. The Senate passed the Elkins anti-trust bill without a single speech for or against. It must be a mighty poor bill that gets through that way. When Minister Bowen says no, he throws an emphasis in it that convinces British and Germans alike, that he means what he says. The ground hog doubtless got an idea last night that he had made his exit a trifle too soon. Decent politics wins a great victory. Addicks has thrown up the sponge in Delaware. 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From here he removed to Baltimore, where he studied law. He is a very sick man now; his condition being critical, indeed. It seems now that a compromise will be reached in the matter of admitting the territories that are clamoring for statehood at the door of the Senate. The plan is to admit Arizona and New Mexico as one State under the name of Arizona, and then hit the Indian Territory on to Oklahoma, and admit them as one State under the name Oklahoma. This will put two more stars on the flag and four more Senators in the Congress. It will also leave an opening for the new State of Montague, which they are talking of carving out of Montana and North Dakota. Several days ago we mentioned that a South Dakota farmer had written to the editor of this paper to gain information concerning farming lands in Virginia, as he desired to settle here. The letter was turned over to Commissioner Kolmer, who answered it. 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owns no submarine patterns. Hence somebody was backing him when he directed his attention to the New York Congressman, and the question is who? Echo's answer should not be considered sufficient. The opponents of Dr. Crum seem to be getting the crum of comfort at the present writing, and, if Tillman can be held in check, Crum will probably be defeated. It now costs \$100,000 per year to keep the White House in order, whereas it used to take only \$30,000. There are more children and rainy days about the White House now than formerly. The Senate passed the Elkins anti-trust bill without a single speech for or against. It must be a mighty poor bill that gets through that way. When Minister Bowen says no, he throws an emphasis in it that convinces British and Germans alike, that he means what he says. The ground hog doubtless got an idea last night that he had made his exit a trifle too soon. Decent politics wins a great victory. Addicks has thrown up the sponge in Delaware. 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